

10/654,767

## SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first paragraph of the specification as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part of United States application number 10/158,946 filed May 31, 2002, now United States patent number 6,709,230, issued on March 23, 2004.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 14 as follows:

The present invention may be embodied with a variety of materials provided that the two aggregate materials exhibit sufficiently different coefficients of thermal expansion so that thermal stresses generated there between during heating of the material result in a degree of micro cracking within the aggregation sufficient to achieve a desired degree of strain tolerance in the material. For example, the aggregate material having the higher CTE may be any of the rare earth oxides, tetragonal zirconia  $t\text{-ZrO}_2$  (such as 8YSZ), alumina  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ , magnesia  $\text{MgO}$ , or spinel  $\text{MgAl}_2\text{O}_4$ , and/or the aggregate material having the lower CTE may be mullite  $3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$ , zircon  $\text{ZrSiO}_4$ , an alkaline earth aluminosilicate such as cordierite  $2\text{MgO} \cdot 2\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 5\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $2\text{MgO} \cdot 2\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 5\text{SiO}_2$  or celsian  $\text{BaO} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{BaO} \cdot \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2$ , or a low CTE non-oxide such as silicon carbide  $\text{SiC}$  or silicon nitride  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ .